

## **Conservation Conversations**

As BirdLife South Africa entered the national lockdown, staff was no longer able to interact with members and deliver presentations at the many bird clubs across the country. It was decided to provide instead a weekly webinar covering different aspects of conservation work to a live Zoom audience.

Held on Tuesday evenings, these talks soon became popular and during the course of the year 36 of them covered many different aspects of bird conservation and research, as well as photography and avi-tourism. Hosts Dr Melissa Whitecross and Andrew de Blocq had a lot of fun engaging with the audiences before and after each talk and people from around the world have enjoyed the recordings available on BirdLife South Africa's YouTube channel.

The average number of viewers per show for 2020 was about 650 and they came from the United Kingdom, Europe, North America and several African countries as well as South Africa. The webinar platform enabled BirdLife South Africa to reach out to new audiences and provided a fantastic opportunity to showcase the diverse conservation work being carried out by the organisation and its partners.

The store of all back editions on YouTube is well worth a browse through to find those subjects you have a particular interest in.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCaRdw1XBW0wdMN4X6HiVkQg>